THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART

NEWS

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CONTACT: Rob Bruder
(216) 707-2265
rbruder@clevelandart.org

The Cleveland Museum of Art Presents Two of Spain's Finest Flamenco Performers on Feb. 4

"An exceptional dancer for whom tradition and classicism are as important as a modern, contemporary aesthetic." — Flamenco-World.com

CLEVELAND (Jan. 13, 2005) — Belen Maya, the dancer whose silhouette appears on the cover of Carlos Saura's award winning film 'Flamenco' will share the stage with the Catalonian flamenco singer Mayte Martín in the internationally acclaimed performance **Mayte Martín + Belén Maya** at the Cleveland Museum of Art's (CMA) **Gartner Auditorium**. Martín, the *cantaora*, and Maya, the *bailaora*, will make their Ohio debut **on Friday, Feb. 4, 2005 at 7:30 p.m.** as part of the Museum's popular **VIVA! Festival of Performing Arts** series.

Admission for the performance is $35 and $31; $31 and $28 for CMA members. Tickets are available by calling 216-421-7350 or 1-888-CMA-0033 or online at www.ClevelandArt.org.

Mayte Martín

Considered to be one of the most complete singers of her generation, Martín has received high acclaim in the flamenco world for her unique vocal quality. Born in Barcelona in 1965 to a family heavily influenced by music, Martín trained herself to sing by listening to the masters of flamenco *cante* during her childhood. Artists such as Juan Valderrama played a tremendous influence on her style; she would memorize every pulse and emotion of their voices. Martín's powerful flamenco voice hovers over and pauses between long notes yet has a natural flow and elegance.

Her first recording, "Muy Frágil," recounts her childhood in Barcelona with robust and passionate vocals. In subsequent album releases, Martín has further explored her flamenco roots and in 1996 teamed up with pianist Tete Montoliu on the recording, "Free Boleros." Since then, she has sung in numerous theaters, won awards in various flamenco competitions and is now considered the "Gran Dama de Flamenco."

Belén Maya

Maya was born in New York to parents who were famous flamenco dancers. As a child she began studying dance with maestros such as Paco Fernández, Goyo Montero and Paco Romero at Madrid's Amor de Dios studio. She soon made her debut at Zambra, a local *tablao* (flamenco club) in Barcelona. Throughout her career she has shared the stage with important flamenco artists including Manolete, Javier Barón and Alejandro Granados. In the last two years Maya has become a major influence on current flamenco choreography. Her numerous imitators admire her unique sense of aesthetic, shape and movement

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Their performance at CMA's Gartner Auditorium will feature the spectacular voice of Martín and the expressive movements of Maya. A mixture of tradition and renewal, this collaboration stems from a mutual admiration and respect. A simple, gentle and natural approach to flamenco has led Martín and Maya to this carefully crafted pared-down style. Created from the heart, this is delicate but passionate flamenco – with raw emotion always under the surface.

The next performance in VIVA! Festival of Performing Arts will be **Mary Black: Songs of Ireland on Friday, March 11, 2005, at 7:30 p.m. in CMA's Gartner Auditorium**. With a distinguished career spanning 20 years, Black has long held the attention of Irish music aficionados. With nine platinum solo albums, Black has played a pivotal role in the recent global blossoming of traditional Irish music. Tickets are available by calling 1-888-CMA-0033 or online at www.ClevelandArt.org.

The Museum receives operating support from the Ohio Arts Council. Promotional support for VIVA! is provided by Northern Ohio Live and WKSU 89.7 FM.

The Cleveland Museum of Art is one of America's leading comprehensive Museums. Its permanent collection is world renowned for its quality and breadth, spanning 6,000 years. The Museum is a significant international forum for exhibitions, scholarship and art acquisitions. For more information on the Museum, its holdings, programs, services and events, call 1-888-CMA-0033 or visit www.ClevelandArt.org.

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